

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 SCI-06 SCEM-02

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 NIC-01

/249 W

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R 140455Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9690

UNCLAS BANGKOK 0663

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG:OCON:ETRD:ECAFE

SUBJECT:RED:ECAFE:SEVENTEENTH SESSION. COMMITTEE ON TRADE 7-14  
JANUARY 1974. BANGKOK

DEPT. PASS AID/W-SA/RD FOR INFO.

1. 17TH SESSION OF ECAFE'S TRADE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS ON JANUARY 10. DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT CONTINUING AND MEETING WILL END AS SCHEDULED ON JANUARY 14.

2. MEETING PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. ATMOSPHERE FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE AND U.S. DEL HAVING NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS. MAIN CONCERN OF REGIONAL LDCS CLEARLY IS ENERGY SITUATION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS AND INFLATIONARY PROBLEMS. THEY HOPE TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS FROM MTN AND LOOK TO ECAFE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP THEM PREPARE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. GATT AND UNCTAD REPS MADE FORTHCOMING STATEMENTS IN THIS REGARD:  
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APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ECAFE WILL SUBSTANTIALLY DUPLICATE

WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS CONNECTION. GSP A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST AND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH; LDCS SEEK WAYS TO MAKE PREFERENCES MORE MEANINGFUL AND TO PREVENT MTN FROM WATERING DOWN THEIR REAL VALUE.

3. DRAFT REPORT CONTAINS U.S. POINT THAT FUTURE MEETINGS OF EXPERTS ON TRADE WOULD BE EVEN MORE PRODUCTIVE IF EXPERTS FROM BUSINESS PARTICIPATE.

4. WORK PROGRAM ACTIVELY DISCUSSED. U.S. REP MADE POINTED THAT PRESENT PRIORITIES NOT DIFFERENTIATED ENOUGH TO PROVIDE MUCH MEANINGFUL GUIDANCE EMPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE REFINE THEM. JAPAN PHILIPPINES, NETHERLANDS, GERMANY SUPPORTED THIS IDEA, BUT PAKISTAN VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED, SAYING ALL PROJECTS NOW ASSIGNED PRIORITY "A" ESSENTIAL, AND IT UP TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MAKE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THEM ONLY INDIA SPECIFICALLY ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH THIS VIEW. SECRETARIAT REP (PROK) NOTED THAT ASTERISK NOTATION IN THIS YEAR'S WORK PROGRAM PROVIDED SOME OF DIFFERENTIATION SOUGHT BY U.S. AND OTHERS AND SAID THAT ASTERISKED PROJECTS "DOWNGRADED". ALTHOUGH PAKISTANI REP. QUESTIONED USE OF TERM "DOWNGRADE" HE AND GROUP AS A WHOLE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT INCLUSION OF ASTERISKED PROJECTS IN WORK PROGRAM ONLY MEANINGFUL IF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CARRYING THEM FORWARD CAN BE OBTAINED; WITHOUT SUCH SUPPORT THEY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN CLEARLY IMPROVEMENT IN PRIORITY SYSTEM AND FULL ACCOUNTABILITY IN WORK PROGRAM LIKELY BE A SLOW AND GRADUAL PROCESS.

5. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ABSENT ABROAD DURING ENTIRE MEETING. COMMITTEE AGREED TO SECRETARIAT SUGGESTION THAT HEREAFTER ITS MEETINGS BE HELD LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER, BOTH TO MAKE POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S PARTICIPATION (HE HAS CONFLICTS IN JANUARY) AND TO ALLOW MORE PREPARATORY TIME BEFORE COMMISSION'S MARCH PLENARY SESSIONS. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILL EXPLORE DATES FOR END-1974. MEETINGS.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
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